AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) There is no Act to regulate the profession of homoeopathy pharmacy. The Department of Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy was set up in 1995 for the development of Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy.

(b) and (c) A Homeopathy Pharmacy Council is necessary to regulate the profession. The structure of such a body has been conceptualized and taken forward for obtaining the necessary approvals. The proposed Council would regulate education, practice and maintain a Central Register of Pharmacists. Even after enacting the Act, it may take considerable time to set up the Homoeopathy Pharmacy Council, introduce the course and prescribe minimum qualification for the Pharmacists.

Cataract Record

964. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn towards the news item titled "GOVERNMENT'S CATARACT RECORD: ONE IN THREE FAILS" published in the Indian Express (Delhi Edition) dated January 19, 2000;

(b) if so, what are the details of the study made by Dr. A.J. Singh of the Liverpool School of Triopical Medicine;

(c) what remedial steps are being taken in this connections;

(d) whether Government offers grant-in-aid to NGOs for holding camps for cataract operations in the urban as well as rural areas; and

(e) if so, the details of such funds granted in the last three years, year-wise, and the criterion for sanction of grant-in-aid to NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The study conducted by Shri A.J. Singh shows a higher level of satisfaction among patients operated in Government and NGO Hospitals compared to eye camps; higher success rates in surgeries conducted in hospitals; higher rates of satisfaction and visual

outcomes with Intra-ocular Lens (IOL) as compared to Conventional Surgeries etc.

(c) In the last two financial years, focus has been on promoting institutional surgeries by releasing additional grants to States for organizing special IOL campaigns in fixed facilites; intensification of the training of eye surgeons in IOL surgery; supply of equipments etc.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. NGOs are eligible for grant-in-aid @ Rs. 400/- for conventional surgery and Rs. 600/- for IOL surgery subject to fulfilling the criteria as given in Statement-I (*See* below). This amount is released to the NGOs directly by the District Blindness Control Societies. State-wise release of grant-in-aid to District Blindness Control Socieites during the last three years is given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

Eligibility Conditions for Grant-in-Aid to NGOs are:

For the purpose of the schemes, a voluntary organization will mean:

(a) A society registered under the Indian Socieites Registration Act, 1860 (Act XXI of 1860 or any such act resolved by the State)

or

(b) A charitable public trust registered under any law for the time being in force;

(c) Track record of having experience in providing health services preferably eye care services over a minimum period of 3 years;

(d) Having available well-trained staff, infrastructure and the required managerial expertise to organise and carry out various activities under the scheme; and

(e) Agreeing to abide by the guidelines and the norms of the programme.

Statement-II

Status of GIA to DBCS Under National Programme for Control of Blindness

(Rs. in Lakhs)

State	GIA during 1996-97	GIA during 1997-98	GIA during 1998-99
World Bank Project States			
Andhra Pradesh	135.00	257.00	364.00
Madhya Pradesh	301.00	455.00	408.00
Maharashtra	123.00	313.00	362.00
Orissa	111.00	204.00	220.00
Rajasthan	117.00	243.00	289.00
Tamil Nadu	108.00	219.00	316.00
Uttar Pradesh	285.00	564.00	599.50
Sub-Total	**1,180.00**	**2,255.00**	**2,558.50**
Other States			
Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	5.00	4.00
Assam	6.00	85.50	57.50
Bihar	54.00	167.50	184.50
Delhi	0.00	11.50	13.50
Goa	0.00	3.50	0.15
Gujarat	27.00	125.50	114.15
Haryana	3.00	54.50	63.50
Himachal Pradesh	6.00	59.50	49.50
Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	19.00	39.50
Karnataka	81.00	159.00	196.00
Kerala	9.00	34.50	75.50
Manipur	6.00	3.50	9.15

State	GIA during 1996-97	GIA during 1997-98	GIA during 1998-99
Meghalaya	3.00	17.50	15.5
Mizoram	9.00	5.00	9.15
Nagaland	0.00	2.50	7.15
Punjab	18.00	52.50	51.50
Sikkim	0.00	0.00	12.00
Tripurra	6.00	12.50	13.15
West Bengal	12.00	54.00	135.50
A&N Islands	0.00	3.00	4.00
Chandigarh	3.00	3.00	7.00
D&N Haveli	0.00	3.00	3.00
Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	4.00
Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	3.00
Sub-Total	**243.00**	**876.50**	**1,071.55**
Grand Total	**1,423.00**	**3,131.50**	**3,630.05**

Comprehensive population policy

965. SHRI VED PRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to announce a comprehensive Population Policy, containing measures and ensure food security for nearly all the people;

(b) if so, whether the policy has been finalised;

(c) if so, what are the features thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay and by when it is expected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (d) The National Population Policy (NPP), 2000 has been approved by the Government. The NPP 2000 does not contain any measure to ensure food security for all people. The NPP 2000 seeks to put in place a multi sectoral agenda for population stabilisation which